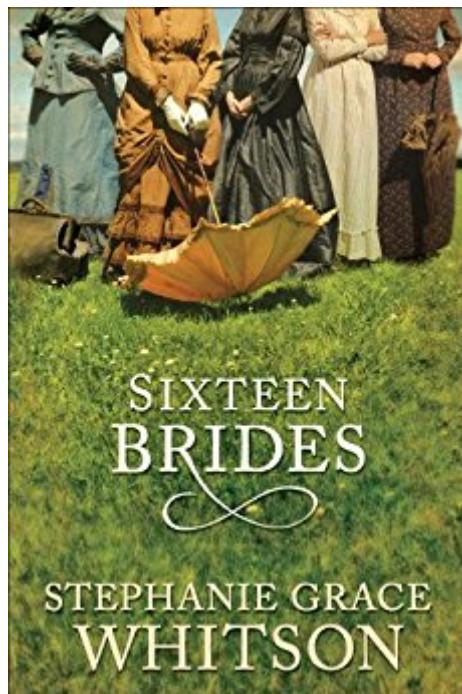


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# Sixteen Brides



## **Synopsis**

Sixteen Civil War widows living in St. Louis respond to a series of meetings conducted by a land speculator who lures them west by promising "prime homesteads" in a "booming community." Unbeknownst to them, the speculator's true motive is to find an excuse to bring women to the fledgling community of Plum Grove, Nebraska, in hopes they will accept marriage proposals shortly after their arrival! Sparks fly when these unsuspecting widows meet the men who are waiting for them. These women are going to need all the courage and faith they can muster to survive these unwanted circumstances--especially when they begin to discover that none of them is exactly who she appears to be.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I have never read, nor have heard of this author. I hesitated purchasing this book because I hardly ever read books like this. My house is dirty because I spent the entire day reading. The plot is riveting, the characters become people you care about, and it is a feel good, warm heart story. I enjoyed the story line, but also the Swiss Family Robertson aspect of the book. I will purchase more

of her books.

Sixteen Brides by Stephanie Grace Whitson was filled with many good surprises. Reading about sixteen women from different backgrounds all looking to go to a place they've never seen before in the hopes of having a piece of land they could call their own. Just the immensity of that decision not counting having to build a home, start farming to have food to eat and to protect themselves from the men that wanted to see them as brides sent to find their man. No small task but they were up for the challenge. I applaud the author on writing a book that had so many characters and giving them space to live their story for us. If that was not remarkable enough, imagine picking up this book and being able to keep all their stories separated and straight with no problem. That is surely a very good author. I enjoyed this book very much, was sorry it ended but am ready for the next book by her. I highly recommend you read this one.

This is a very engaging epic story of the women pioneers of the west. It follows the lives of five women who immigrated to the west without knowing that they were being shipped off as brides. Wanting to make a life for themselves on their own, this group of five separated from the rest and set out to realize their dreams of owning their own land and homesteading. It was refreshing to read about how people lived during the late part of the nineteenth century. It is also assuring to know that the same life values from long ago are still very much applicable to this day and age of high technology. As they say, we can't go wrong with the basics, even more so if we're talking about basic human interaction. Each chapter starts with a quote from the Bible, and references to God and faith abound all through the whole book. Just the same, it was not at all preachy. I believe it is the author's intention to open the readers to a renewed or strengthened faith in God. In that regard, I am confident that she has well succeeded.

Great read about struggling women making their way in a new land alone. It's been a while since I read a book that I didn't want to end but that's how I felt about this book. The women paid their way to go west to be able to start anew with their own farms. They didn't realize they had been promised as brides at the other end of the train ride. Part of them revolt and do their own thing making it alone without a marriage (at least at first) and make their way with the help of new neighbors. Lovely story with just enough excitement, romance, etc to keep you interested to the end and wishing for more.

This book was very well written. I especially liked the depth of character development of each of the

ladies and the men they would eventually fall in love with. This was not your typical instant attraction fall in love at first sight romance story. These were strong, "I've been through hell and survived" women who were looking to secure their own futures. Each had a different and distinct personality with their own story to tell. I liked the fact that they refused to do what was "expected" of them, but rather did what was best for them regardless of whether it was acceptable or "proper" in the eyes of the townspeople. Even though all the characters (ladies & men) were working to overcome their own personal internal battles, I never felt overwhelmed or emotionally drained. Everything flowed together well.

A group of widows head to Nebraska to claim homesteads; when they discover the man in charge intends to earn money from men eager for brides, Ella, Zita, Caroline, Ruth, Hettie, and Sally decide to get off the train early and homestead together, instead. Best bits: Skillfully done. It's got to be a challenge to weave together so many storylines and POVs and have it work, and the challenge was met. It seems like we hear from a whole host of characters, but really there are only(!) 5 POVs: Caroline, Ruth, Ella, Matthew, and (to a lesser extent) Hettie. I am left wanting to read a sequel, not because we don't get a satisfying conclusion, but because I want to keep hearing about the lives of these people I feel invested in. All the characters are dealing with painful pasts in some form or another. Those that turn to God are the most emotionally stable and healthy. Zita, Martha, and Jeb all model genuine Christianity, and they offer good advice and prayers for the others. Matthew's transformation is the most dramatic, as he takes steps toward healing on his own, but is finally able to forgive himself and his cousin after reading the Bible. Jeb gives him and hashing it out with God. Issues: I am a bit thrown by the title, as there are 16 ladies only for the first few chapters, we don't even meet them all, and they don't all become brides.

I read this book last year and despite having a large quantity of books to read, I decided to reread this story. Even though this story had about six main women characters and some men, I liked how easily the story transitioned between characters' points of view. I liked getting to know each character, the events that shaped them, and the strength and vulnerability they exhibited. I also liked that I thought things were going to happen a certain way and was pleasantly surprised when they didn't. I liked the historical context and the way scripture was effectively woven in. I liked the main theme of forgiveness and its relevance to real life. I can't think of anything I didn't like about this story. In fact I would enjoy reading it again! I would recommend this book to anyone who likes historical fiction and good character development.

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